

**REMARKS**

In the specification, the word "reflector" at page 4, line 10 and page 12 (the Abstract), line 20, has been replaced with "light source" to correct minor editorial problems.

Claim 1 is amended by replacing the word "reflector" at line 22 with "light source". Support for this limitation can be found in the specification, e.g., on page 6, line 18, "a predetermined distance, call as the inserting dimension, between the lamp 340 and the light guide plate 100 is formed". The Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono (US Patent No. 6,533,633) in view of Katsuya (JP-2001-290145). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ono and Katsuya, standing alone or in combination, fail to disclose, suggest, or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by claim 1 of the present application:

"a light guide plate having a light receiving lateral side ... the first coupling lateral side having a first coupling member and the second coupling lateral side having a second coupling member";

"a reflector disposed along the light receiving lateral side, said reflector having a reflective cover, an opening, a first holder, and a second holder, the opening positioned toward the light receiving lateral side, the first holder extending toward the first coupling lateral side and the second holder

extending toward the second coupling lateral side, the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member”;

“a light source installed inside the reflector, the light emitted from the light source being reflected by the reflective cover and transmitted into the light guide plate”; and

“wherein the first and second coupling members are respectively combined with the first and second linking members for assembling the reflector and the light guide plate, and a predetermined distance is formed between the light source and the light guide plate.”

Ono discloses a method for easily manufacturing a relatively small-diameter aperture fluorescent lamp. Ono's device has many differences from that of the present application. For example, Ono's reflector 26 does not have **“a first holder, and a second holder”**, not to mention “the first holder extending toward the first coupling lateral side and the second holder extending toward the second coupling lateral side, the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member”, as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

Further, Ono does not teach a light guide plate **directly combined** with the reflector. In Ono the light guide plate 31 is directly combined with the reflection sheet 29 and the optical correction sheet 32, but not with the reflector 26. Please see Figure 12 of Ono. Thus, Ono does not teach the feature “wherein the first and second coupling members are respectively combined with the first and second linking members for assembling the reflector and the light guide plate”, as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Ono teaches a light guide plate received in a reflector via coupling members and linking members in Figs. 9-11. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Note that in Ono, the **coupling members and the linking members** are on the reflection sheet 29, the optical correction sheet 32, the cases 28 and 33, and the light guide plate 31, but **not on the reflector 26**. Please see Fig. 10 of Ono.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Ono does not teach "a **predetermined distance** formed between the reflector and the light guide plate". However, he asserts that Katsuya specifies a reflector integrated with a light guide plate in a prescribed positional relation in Fig. 7. The Applicant does not see how Katsuya's Fig. 7 teaches a prescribed positional relation and respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify. Even if Katsuya teaches a prescribed positional relation, it is different from the feature that "a predetermined distance is formed between the light source and the light guide plate", as recited by claim 1.

As described on page 2, line 4-23 of the specification, the conventional arts experience "light line" and "dark line" problems, created by the reduced precision of the inserted dimension between the lamp and the light guide plate. The present application solves this problem by forming a predetermined distance between the light source and the light guide plate when the first and the second coupling members are combined with the first and the second linking members.

Katsuya discloses the light transmission plate holding part 325 holding the light guide plate 210 with elasticity by inserting the end part 216 of the light guide plate 210 into the gap of the light guide plate holding part 325. However, in Katsuya, the light guide plate holding part 325 holds the light guide plate 210 by grip, the light guide plate 210 can easily slip. The distance between the light source and the light guide plate in Katsuya is thus not precisely controlled, which affects a light transmission of the backlight unit.

Due to the reasons stated above, the Applicant believes that the feature "predetermined distance ... between the light source and the light guide plate" is not disclosed or suggested by the references. Even if Katsuya teaches such feature, it would not have been obvious to incorporate it into Ono because **neither Ono nor Katsuya recognizes the "light line" and "dark line" problems** mentioned in the present application. And there is **no suggestion or motivation** to form a predetermined distance between the light source and the light guide plate, as recited by claim 1 of the present application.

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the motivation to modify Ono in view of Katsuya is for easy assembly, a light weight surface illuminator, an LCD with the light weight surface illuminator, a low cost electronic device, a thin, narrow frame and higher yield. None of these reasons, however, explain why there should be a predetermined distance between the light source and the light guide plate.

Since the combination of Ono and Katsuya does not teach or suggest the features discussed above, the Applicant believes that claim 1 is

patentable. Claims 2-9 are also patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Moreover, these claims are patentable by virtue of the additional limitations recited therein.

For example, claim 6 recites, in part, "wherein the reflector further includes a base cover, an angle is formed between the first holder and the base cover, the angle is less than 90 degrees; as the light guide plate expands when heated, the light guide plate pushes the first holder and the first angle is increased to form a space, and the expanding portion of the light guide plate is received in the space." These features are clearly not taught by the cited references.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Katsuya teaches such features in Figure 7. Again, the Applicant does not see how Katsuya's Fig. 7 teaches the limitations of claim 6 and respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify. Moreover, the Applicant does not see how it would have been obvious to incorporate such features into Ono. It seems that these features are not necessary in Ono's device.

The Applicant has attempted to address all of the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action as the Applicant understands them. The Applicant believes that the Application is now in condition for allowance. If any point requires further explanation, the Examiner is invited to telephone Troy Cai at (323) 934-2300 or e-mail Troy Cai at [tcai@ladasparry.com](mailto:tcai@ladasparry.com).

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account No. 12-0415. In

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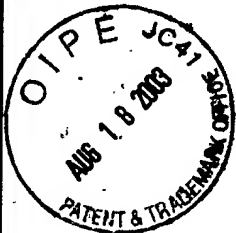
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**Expires: November 19, 2003**

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